

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 SSO-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 /041 W

-----009588 201021Z /17

O R 200938Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3386

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

US MISSION GENEVA 2530

UNCLAS BANGKOK 13418

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD MS SEA FORTUNE

REF: A. HONG KONG 6713 (NOTAL) B. BANGKOK 12767

C. BANGKOK 13219

1. EMBASSY REFUGEE OFFICER BOARDED MS SEA FORTUNE ON SATURDAY JUNE 18 ACCOMPANIED BY UNHCR REP AND CHIEF OF FRENCH EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION IN ORDER TO INTERVIEW AND REGISTER THIRTEEN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES RESCUED AT SEA ON JUNE 10 PER REF A. GROUP CONSISTS OF 6 MEN AND 6 WOMEN PLUS ONE BABY MAKING UP SIX FAMILIES OF WHICH ONLY ONE FORMER ARVN PARATROOPER CUM FISHERMEN APPEARS TO QUALIFY FOR U.S. PROGRAM. PROFESSIONS INCLUDE, BARBER, BOAT ENGINE REPAIRMAN, SCHOOL TEACHER, STUDENTS. ONE FAMILY OF SIX SIBLINGS HAS A UNCLASSIFIED

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BROTHER IN CANADA POSING POSSIBILITY OF LATER FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN CANADA; ANOTHER FAMILY OF THREE HAS A DISTANT RELATIVE IN FRANCE. REFUGEES STATED THEY LEFT VIETNAM WITH THE HOPE OF BEING PICKED UP AT SEA TAKING AS EXAMPLE OTHERS REPORTED IN BROADCASTS HEARD IN VIETNAM. CAPTAIN OF SHIP STATED EVEN THOUGH SMALL BOAT WAS THREE-FOURTHS INUNDATED, HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE RESCUED REFUGEES HAD HE NOT SEEN THE NINE MONTH OLD BABY ON BOARD.

2. FYI: FRENCH EMBASSY HAS ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT FAMILY OF THREE WITH DISTANT RELATIVE IN FRANCE WHICH INCLUDES NINE MONTH OLD BABY. FRENCH REFUGEE OFFICER INDICATED SELECTION WAS MADE STRICTLY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. UNHCR IS PRESENTLY ARRANGING FOR THAT FAMILY TO BE TRANSFERRED TO BANGKOK TRANSIT CENTER.

3. VESSEL IS PRESENTLY LOADING CARGO BOUND FOR NEXT PORT APAPA, LAGOS AND PLANS TO DEPART BANGKOK WEDNESDAY JUNE 22. IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS AS REQUESTED REFS B AND C BEFORE OPENING OF BUSINESS BANGKOK JUNE 21.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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